



504 Compliance Update

June 2026

Legal Basis



504 Plan

Section 504

Rehabilitation Act of 1973

A Civil Rights Law

IEP

IDEA

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (1975 Reauthorized in 1990)

Special Education Law

Eligibility



504 Plan

Impairment Focus

Requires a physical or mental impairment that **substantially limits** one or more major life activities.

IEP

Two-Pronged Criteria

1. Fall under a specific **IDEA category**
AND
2. Need **specialized instruction** as a result.

"An IEP is about progress, while a 504 plan is about access."

Purpose/Focus

504 Plans provide accommodations and modifications so a student can **access** the general education curriculum on an equal basis with peers.

IEPs provide **specialized instruction** (specially designed teaching) plus related services, tailored to the child's unique needs.

Plan Content

504 Plans typically list accommodations (e.g., extended time, preferential seating, breaks, modified assignments).

IEPs include **measurable annual goals**, specialized instruction, related services (speech, OT, etc.), and progress monitoring.

District Wide

Transylvania County Schools currently has 158 students with active 504 Plans.

Breakdown of 504s by School

- . BES: 16
- . BHS: 58
- . BMS: 22
- . PFE: 21
- . DRS: 3
- . RES: 8
- . RHS: 14
- . RMS: 12
- . TCH: 4

Compliance Tracking

- The district uses ECATS (Every Child Accountability & Tracking System) as the monitoring tool for Section 504, which is the same statewide database used for IEPs.
- ECATS compliance notifications allow the district to track annual review dates and triennial eligibility dates for 504 Plans.

Findings

- Only 1 of the 158 students was found to have a compliance violation.
- This was a transfer from another district near the end of the year. The transferring information was expired and plans are in place to bring this into compliance.